

Message Text

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TAGS: SENV BEXP HU
SUBJECT: AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL TSS

REF: USDOC 21451

1. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS OF GROWING CONCERN IN HUNGARY; SOME ESTIMATE THE ANNUAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY POLLUTION AT 10 BILLION FORINTS. TO COMBAT PROBLEM, GOH ESTIMATES IT NEEDS TO INVEST 2-3.5 BILLION FORINTS YEARLY.

2. A NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL, HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF CONSTRUCTION AND URBAN PLANNING, WAS SET UP IN 1974. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THE NATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ARE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WHICH OPERATIONALLY REPORTS TO AN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. IN MARCH, 1976 A MAJOR ACT ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WAS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CONTAINING COMPREHENSIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF AIR, WATER, SOIL, THE LIVING WORLD, LANDSCAPES AND SETTLEMENTS.

3. OVER 95 PERCENT OF HUNGARY'S SURFACE WATER ENTERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES; BY THE TIME IT REACHES THE BORDER MOST OF IT IS CONSIDERABLY POLLUTED. DAILY WASTE WATER
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IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 2 MILLION CUBIC METERS, AND A LITTLE MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF IT IS CURRENTLY BEING TREATED. WITHIN THE NEXT TEN YEARS WASTE WATER IS EXPECTED TO REACH 4 MILLION CUBIC METERS PER DAY. THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN CALLS FOR EXPENDITURES TOTALING 20 BILLION FORINTS FOR WASTE WATER PURIFICATION. AS A

RESULT OF THE WATER PURITY ACT (PASSED IN 1964), WHICH PROVIDES FOR PUNITIVE SANCTIONS AGAINST ENTERPRISES CAUSING WATER POLLUTION, MORE THAN 200 MILLION FORINTS IN FINES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED ON DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS.

4. THE GOH PLANS TO SPEND 2 BILLION FORINTS TO CLEAN UP AND MAINTAIN LAKE BALATON DURING THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. AN URGENT TASK IS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SEWER SYSTEMS IN THE LAKE BALATON VICINITY, AND WITHIN FIVE YEARS FOUR NEW CENTRAL WASTE WATER PURIFIERS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AND OTHERS MODERNIZED. WITH A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE UN DEVELOPMENT FUND A "WATER PURITY PROTECTION MODEL AREA" WILL ALSO BE BUILT IN HUNGARY.

5. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT DIRECT AIR POLLUTION CAUSES MORE THAN 2 BILLION FORINTS OF DAMAGE YEARLY. A NATIONAL AIR PURITY FUND HAS BEEN SET UP, FROM SUMS PAID IN AS FINES BY ENTERPRISES SINCE 1971. FROM THIS FUND INVESTMENTS DESIGNED TO CUT AIR POLLUTION HAVE BEEN SUBSIDIZED IN 26 ENTERPRISES.

6. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CEMA SPECIALIZATION, HUNGARY IS ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURE OF CONTROL AND MEASURING INSTRUMENTS FOR GAS PURIFYING PLANTS. A CEMA COORDINATION CENTER CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF WASTE NEUTRALIZATION AND RECYCLING IS ALSO LOCATED IN HUNGARY.

7. BACKGROUND MATERIAL IS BEING POUCHED TO BEWT/LEVINE.
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